

Wm Lloyd Garrison
July 5. 1863.

Boston, July 5, 1863.

Dear Friend:

Your letter of the 2d inst. makes us all, at home, very glad to learn that you are ^{to} visit Boston next week, and that we may have the coveted privilege to extend to you our simple family hospitality during your brief sojourn. Do not hesitate to come directly to 14 Dix Place; and, instead of your going to a hotel the night of your arrival, order the hackman to drive to our house, as I should much prefer to sit up till you come than to have you seek a bed elsewhere. It will be no task for me to do so, as I shall have enough to keep me busy in reading or writing till the arrival of the midnight train.

The 50th anniversary you are coming to celebrate, though it cannot reverse the wheels of time, which turn back for no one's accommodation, may make you all feel young again in recalling to memory the earliest college

reminiscences. May it prove a pleasant and profitable commemoration to the surviving members of your Class, who may be permitted to greet each other on the occasion!

Your son George has just made us a call, but, as I was lying down, I did not have the pleasure of seeing him. His aunt Charlotte, my wife, William, Fanny and Frank entertained him, but were not a little surprised to find him disposed to cry, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace, and can be none, until the rod of the oppressor is broken, and the war-breeding, war-creating system of slavery utterly broken down.

Speaking of peace, I shall publish in the next Liberator a letter addressed to you by our old well-meaning, but not always clearly discriminating friend, Joshua P. Blanchard, in reply to the one you wrote to me on the holding of the annual meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society at New York, in May last, and which was published with the proceedings of that meeting. He left

word at my office, (for I did not see him,) that you desired him to send it to the Liberator, if he thought proper. I do not know whether you will feel disposed to make any reply to it; but, if so, I hope your rejoinder will be such as to justify me in declining to open my columns, at this time, to a protracted discussion with him on the peace question. Mr. Blanchard is one of the number who seem to be fond of disputation for its own sake, and ever disposed to have the last word in a controversy. He is a worthy man, and means well; but, ever since this most unjustifiable and wicked rebellion broke out, his sympathies have been paradoxically given to the side of the Southern Confederacy, and, consequently, in opposition to the course of the Administration. Curious enough, he assumes to find in the Declaration of Independence a full warrant for the rebels to set up an independent form of government! Thus—"All governments derive their just powers from the consent

of the governed"—the rebels do not consent to the government of the U. S.—ergo, &c. This is as stupid and monstrous a perversion of the meaning of the language of the Declaration as is the rendering of Christ's injunction, "Take, eat—this is my body"—by the Romish Church, so as to prove the doctrine of transubstantiation. Ardently as my soul yearns for universal peace, and greatly shocking to it as are the horrors of war, I deem this a time when the friends of peace will best subserve their holy cause to wait until the whirlwind, the fire and the earthquake are past, and then "the still small voice" may be understandingly and impressively heard.

Yesterday, our annual celebration at the Framingham Grove brought together a great concourse of the tried and devoted friends of impartial freedom. Phillips made a scathing rejoinder to Montgomery Blair's speech at Concord, N. H., on the 17th of June.

We all send our warmest love to you and yours. Faithfully yours, Wm. Lloyd Garrison.